

From: "D Clifton

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Subject: Disputes on Credit Cards

I am writing to you about my experience with Credit, Credit Bureaus, and Creditors.

I live in South Carolina. I had been married for 10 years when I found out my husband was having an affair. I sued for divorce. I got it within 6 months on the grounds of adultery. He came to court without a job (He quit a 45,000.00 a year job with benefits with Frito Lay). I got everything. The kids, the house the bills. I was ordered to refinance the house within 3 years so he could get his VA loan back. Why? Because in the State of South Carolina everything is based on income ratio, I had a job, lucky me. This was when my real credit problems started. We had managed before. I could not pay all those bills by myself, and his contribution was only \$85.00 a week for 2 kids. When trying to refinance the house to get extra money to pay the bills...couldn't get enough, not enough equity. Had to get a 2nd mortgage. House is not worth enough, Still not enough to pay the bills. My car broke down...anyway I'm sure you get the picture. I don't drink I don't smoke, I don't do drugs. As a matter of fact I don't take vacations, and I don't buy new clothes for my self, I don't go out (This is still the case even after the bankruptcy, I live in fear). Because I am so unhappy I don't date. I filed for Chapter 13 Bankruptcy in 1998. I paid it off in 2001. In 2003 My friend got her realtors license and she wanted to help me get a house. I laughed. I had just started reestablishing my credit. After a Bankruptcy? I said ok give it your best shot. She did it, (GOD love her) approved through the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority. I was shocked. Took 3 months though to really get the paperwork right. My credit was horrible. Accounts included in the Bankruptcy reporting as Charge offs, and collections. As a matter of Fact, Wells Fargo, who was handling the new mortgage was one of those charge offs...seems that Norwest Financial (included in the Bankruptcy) had merged with them, it doesn't show on my credit report as Norwest it shows as Wells Fargo. They said they would remove it then, but they didn't, it's still there saying I was late in 2003 and 2004. I had to show my Bankruptcy documents. So since then I've been trying to get those things corrected. I sent the documents to Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. TransUnion immediately made the changes, but they don't report the date of status properly. Makes it look like I'm still paying. And strange late payment documentation. I mean how can a account **closed** in 1996 **last updated** in 2003 be late 30 days 1 time 12 months prior to last update? Makes no sense. Experian changes most of the Bankruptcy information, except for Cross Country Bank. Verifies it as a Chargeoff even though they have Bankruptcy documents in hand. And when they finally do add Bankruptcy, they still have the Chargeoff on it. Are they trying to make both the Consumer and Creditor happy? I don't think it should work that way. Equifax refuses my Bankruptcy documents as relevant and still shows chargeoffs. So in essence 8 years after my divorce I am still suffering. Next year in 2005...will the Bankruptcy still be reported...it's supposed to come off. But if that were to happen I might get ahead and not need credit cards...

The latest and greatest mistake is this...The Consumer reports that the CRA's are giving to me are not the same as the reports they give to Fair Issacs and company. What do I mean by this. The reports they send to me were different than the ones I pulled from My FICO. There was more bad info on the FICO reports than the Consumer report they sent me. And try to talk to the Creditors, they don't know why the credit bureaus are reporting that way, and the CRA's say they are just reporting creditor info. I can't win. I am doomed to pay high interest and high insurance. And this fixer upper house I just bought I will never be able to fix up, because I refuse to take another high interest loan!!! I paid my bills before the divorce and bankruptcy, and I'm paying my bills after. I am NOT a BEAT. I have not succumbed to food stamps and welfare and I have worked since I graduated from highschool in 1978. I have been working for the US Postal Service since 1991 as a Rural Carrier. I will retire from the US Postal Service as a Rural Carrier. I would appreciate a little bit of relief from this circus you call credit reporting. They are out to make a buck....the question is from whom? Why are the Credit Bureaus prospering? From the Creditors and the Consumers. Why would they want my reports to be accurate?

Sincerely,
Deborah Clifton